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Message Text

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62
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /159 W
---------- 097679
R 131510Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1314
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK 1784

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XF
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
ROME OFFICIAL

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. ON MORNING OCTOBER 13 EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ROME OFFICER WITH WHOM WE HAVE PERIODIC CONTACT ASKED FOR "URGENT" APPOINTMENT. IT APPARENT FROM CONVERSATION THAT EGYPTIANS OPERATING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REPORT VIEWS OF ALL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. EGYPTIAN REP MENTIONED HE HAD SPOKEN WITH SOVIETS AND MOST OF ARAB EMBASSIES HERE.

2. EGYPTIAN ASKED WHETHER US POSITION ON CURRENT HOSTILITIES CONTINED TO BE THAT SET FORTH BY AMB. SCALI IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 8. HE SAID IT WAS EXTRAORDINARY TO EXPECT
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THAT ARABS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORY THEY HAD GAINED BY

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MILITARY ACTION SINCE IT WAS ARAB LAND. HE REITERATED EGYPTIAN
POSITION THAT ANY CEASE FIRE MUST BE TIED TO DEMAND FOR COMPLETE
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY. HE SAID "IN PLACE"
CEASE FIRE WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO APPARENT US POSITION OF WITH-
DRAWAL TO 1967 CEASE FIRE LINES, BUT MAINTAINED POSITION OF
CEASE FIRE WITH TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES.

3. WE EXPLAINED THAT AMB. SCALI'S STATEMENT MUST BE READ IN CON-
TEXT OF OTHER OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SITUATION AND THAT US
PRIMARY AIM WAS TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS ON CEASE FIRE LEADING TO
MEANINGFUL ACTION TO RESOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. WE REFERRED
HIM TO KISSINGER OCTOBER 12 PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MOST RECENT
US VIEW OF SUBJECT. EGYPTIAN RESPONDED THAT US POSITION WITH
ARABS WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF US COULD FIND WAY TO MAKE
PUBLIC STATEMENT ON CURRENT SITUATION WHICH ARABS COULD INTERPRET
FAVORABLY.

4. EGYPTIAN EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT EC HAD NOT REPEAT
NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH DECLARATION ON MID EAST AT OCTOBER
11-12 POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING. HE NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT
EC-9 POL DIRECTORS NOT REPEAT NOT ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT.
HE SAID EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN HOPEFUL THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIONS
ON SUBJECT TO ITALIANS AND OTHERS WOULD HAVE PRODUCED SOME RESULT.
HE ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF ITALIAN POSITION ON CURRENT
CRISIS. WE POINTED TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS
CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND POINTED OUT
THAT, AS HE WAS WELL AWARE, ITALIANS HAD BEEN AMONG MORE ACTIVE
MEMBERS OF EC TRYING TO PROD THE NINE INTO ADOPTING A COMMON
POSITION ON MID EAST. HE ASKED WHETHER ITALIANS HAD PUT ANY
DIRECT PRESSURE ON US. WE RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE, BUT SAID WE
WERE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH GOI ON SUBJECT AND WELL AWARE OF
ITALIAN CONCERNS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE WHICH PARTY HAD INITIATED HOSTILITIES
ON OCTOBER 6, EGYPTIAN TOOK ZAYYAT LINE THAT ISRAELIS HAD FIRED
FIRST, AND ARABS HAD REACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE. WE OBSERVED THAT
IT GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT ARABS HAD INITIATED CONFLICT. HE
RESPONDED THAT IN ANY CASE HE WAS PLEASED WITH SUCCESS OF ARAB
MILITARY STRATEGY.

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6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RE SOVIET POSITION, EGYPTIAN
EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USSR HAD TAKEN "WISER" POSTURE THAN IN 1967.
HE EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT HOWEVER RE BREZHNEV EXHORTATION TO
ALGERIANS AND OTHER ARABS TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO EGYPT AND SYRIA.

7. EGYPTIAN CONCLUDED CONVERSATION WITH FAMILIAR PLEA THAT US
USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ISRAELIS AT THIS "EXTREMELY CRITICAL"
TIME SO THAT MID EAST CONFLICT CAN BE PERMANENTLY RESOLVED.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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